

Louisville Democrat

WEDNESDAY.....MAY 20, 1857.

THE COMET.

BY O. W. HOLMES.

The Comet! He is on his way,
And singing as he flies;
The whizzing planets shrink before
The spectro of the skies;

Ah! well may regal orbs burn blue,
 And swell like rampant pole,
 Ten million cubits of the head,
 Ten billion leagues of tail?
 On, on by whistling spheres of light,
 He flashes and he flames;
 He turns not to the left or right,
 He seeks them not their names;
 One spurs from his demonic heel—
 Away, away the day
 Where darkness might be bottled up
 And sold for "Tyren dye."
 And what would happen to the land,
 And how would look the sea,
 If, in the bearded devil's path
 Our earth should chance to be
 Left half and half, and half and half

I saw the intake take his tube
The Comet's course to spy,
I heard a scream: the gathered rays
Had stolen the intake's eye;
I saw a dart—the stars were all
Were armed with cracks green;
Pop cracked the gas! Whiz Saw the Bulbs!
Bang went the magazine!

I saw the smoldering pit roll down
The crackling, sweating pines,
And streams of smoke, like water-spouts,
Dart through the rambling mines;
I saw the flames why they were made
Such noise about the town;
They answered not, but all the while,

The brakes went up and down,
I saw a roasting pullet sit
Upon a baking egg,
I saw a cripple scorch his hand
Extinguishing his leg!
I saw a man sweep upon the wing
Toward the frozen sea,
And every mother's gosling fill
Crisped to crackling coal!

I saw the ax that lowered the grass
Withrin the hisister ravs,
The herbage in his shattering jaws
Was all a fiery blaze;
I saw huge fishes, boiled to frags,
Eaten through the boiling brains,
And the old man, with his grey beard,

Strange sights! Strange sounds! Of fearful dream
 Memory has made me ill.
 The steaming sea, that furious gale,
 That wreathed each wooded hill,
 Stranger! If through thy seeling brain
 So hush midnight visions sweep,
 Spare, spare, O spare thine evening meal,
 And sweet rest shall be thy sleep!

A FRENCH DUELIST.—A Bayonne newspaper has the following strange story:

A man, still in the flower of his age, and

appearing to suffer from a wound, arrived in town a few days ago by the steamer from S. Mauid; he was accompanied by an old Malagasy servant, of copper-colored complexion. The appearance of the two was very singular, the master seemed a prey to extreme sadness. After a very short stay, they both went to a lagoon in the environs, where the master is supposed to have died of a wound which he had received. It appears from a Spanish journal that this person is a M. R. de G——, of French descent, born at Malraux, recently fought a duel in

neighborhood of Santander, with Sir H. _____, an officer of the fleet of the East India Company, and that he killed his adversary on the spot, but was severely wounded himself. It appears, also, that at the time of the opium war with China, he being then also an officer of the East Indian fleet, was suspected of having engaged in the piracy he was ordered to repress, and was, consequently, ill-regarded by his colleagues.

An offensive epithet having been applied to him, he challenged the offender and killed him.

The brother of the adversary then called out to G —, but the brother also was killed. M. de G — subsequently had some strange adventures, which led to repeated duels. The counting the duel near Santander, M. de G — had killed not fewer than four men. Having visited Mexico, M. de G — fell in love with the late Count Raousset de Boulbon, that person strongly pressed him to take part in his expedition to conquer some of the provinces of Mexico, but he refused. In his book, Count de Boulbon gives a description of himself, and

the *Bouillon* gives a description of the person M. de G—, which is quite that of a hero-romance, and speaks with admiration of the bravery he displayed in duels. He says that as that gentleman always avoided taking of naval subjects, he had never been able to ascertain whether or not he had ever been a pirate. It is said the stranger, after being cured of his wound, intends to enter a convent of the *Chartreux* at *Grenoble*.

plimentary dinner was given to Governor Walker by a number of his personal friends at the State House, New York, on Tuesday evening. The Governor made a speech in reply to a complimentary toast, in which, among other things, he said:

"So far as the utmost exercise of his official powers and his personal influence would go to secure that result, Governor Walker said he had determined the people of Kansas should have."

an opportunity for a full, free, and solemn expression of their will upon the adoption of a constitution that might be framed, after a full and satisfactory census of all the *bona fide* inhabitants who might be in the Territory at that time. He considered this due to them. It was part of their inherent and inalienable sovereignty. And he should consider it, not only a duty of law and of official duty, as an officer of the Territory, but a point of honor as a man and a gentleman, to do everything in his power to give to them the full, free, and undisturbed

"This he believed to be the great point essential to the peace and welfare of Kansas: if the people could have such a vote, all divisions would be settled. And he regarded the past differences—the contests about the legislature, about the Topeka constitution, the census and register of voters—as preliminary questions; important, but deriving most of their consequence from their relation to the great and paramount question—the right of

people of Kansas to decide for themselves the constitution which may be offered for adoption. If this could be properly and factorily adjusted, all the difficulties which embarrass the settlement of the Territory would disappear."

YEARLY FOOD OF ONE MAN.—From the my and navy diet scales of France and England—which, of course, are based upon the recognized necessities of large numbers of active life—it is inferred that about twenty-four pounds, avoirdupois, of food are

one-fourth pounds of avoirdupois of dry per day are required for each individual; about three-fourths are vegetable, and the rest animal. At the close of an entire year amount is upward of eight hundred pounds. Enumerating under the title of water all various drinks—coffee, tea, alcohol wine, its estimated quantity is about fifteen hundred pounds per annum. That is for the received by breathing may be taken at hundred pounds. With these figures before says the Medical World, we are able to see

the case stands. The food, water, and which a man receives amounts, in the aggregate, to more than three thousand pounds a year—that is, to about a tun and a half more than twenty times his weight. This enormous quantity may well attract our attention to the expenditure of material required for supporting life. A living being is the result of representation of change on a prodigious

government have refused to loan Lady Franklin's bark *Resolute* (recently presented to the government by the Americans) to enable us to make further searches in the Arctic region for her husband and his party. She has, therefore, purchased at Aberdeen a new and beautiful screw yacht, under the inspection of Captain Clintock, of the royal navy, who will command the expedition. He is well known as having made the greatest sledge explorations of the north, and we have any knowledge.

DIVORCES.—The Indianapolis Journal says: There are sixty-three divorce cases on the docket of our court at the present time, of which fifty have been brought by non-residents, who have availed themselves of our shameful laws. The new law requiring two years' residence will "dry up" this disgraceful flood of divorce cases, and leave us with only the small number of our own domestic difficulties, without the flood of those of half the Union besides.

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